(b) whether it is also a fact that the C.S.D. has been ignoring the recommendations of Unit Run Canteens; and

(c) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to review the functioning of Canteen Stores Depot?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Canteen Stores Department (CSD) have not stopped placement of orders for newly introduced items, except those which are proposed to be deleted from the C.S.D. inventory, as per the decision of the CSD management.

(b) The requirements of Unit Run Canteens (URCs) are taken note of and are met by CSD to the maximum extent possible.

(c) Does not arise.

4064. (Tranferred to 17th December, 1992)

Non-Payment of Dues to SSI Units by CSD

4065. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount due by Canteen Stores Department to small scale sector and tiny sector units for their stocks as on this date;

(b) whether it is a fact that such SSI units and tiny sector units are not getting their payments as per the terms and contracts set out with CSD;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the region-wise dues from CSD to the SSI and tiny units as on date?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) An amount of Rs. 1.48 crores payable to small scale units supplying stores to the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) has been withheld for adjustment against refund due to the C.S.D. for unsold and slow moving stocks, contractually required to be taken back by the supplier.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As CSD purchases are centralised by the C.S.D. headquarters at Bombay, region-wise details of pending payments are not maintained.

Plight of an Army Personnel

4066. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "Kashmir Me Ek Karod Ka Sona Pakarwane Wale Fauji Ki Dastan" which appeared in 'Jansatta' Delhi edition of 20th November, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action is being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Government have seen the said news item. This news report pertains to an Army officer who was cashiered from service, besides being sentenced to 7 years Rigorous Imprisonment, on the charge of improperly and without authority removing money from civilians, while on cordon and search operations in Srinagar, on the basis of the findings of a Summary General Court Martial. The allegation regarding seizure of gold biscuits was also investigated but was not substantiated.